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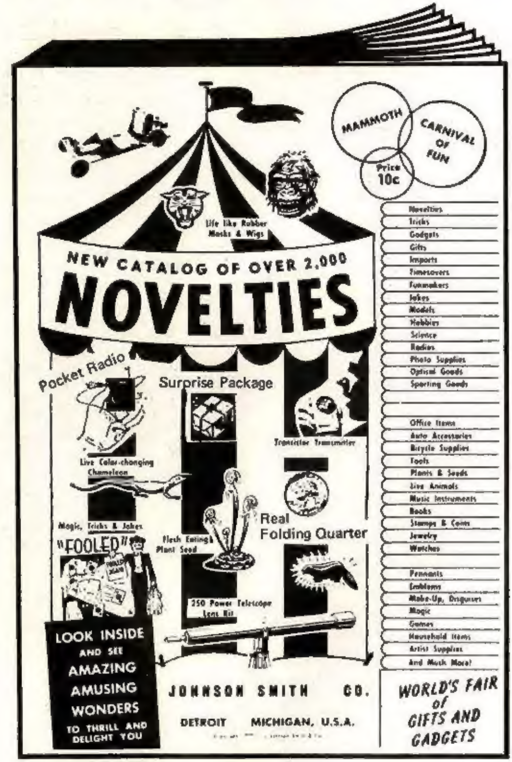

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IF THEY SHOULD DISCOVER THAT I AM A SPY RATHER THAN A NEWS PHOTOGRAPHER--THAT THIS CAMERA IS REALLY ONE OF EARTH'S MOST POTENT WEAPONS--!
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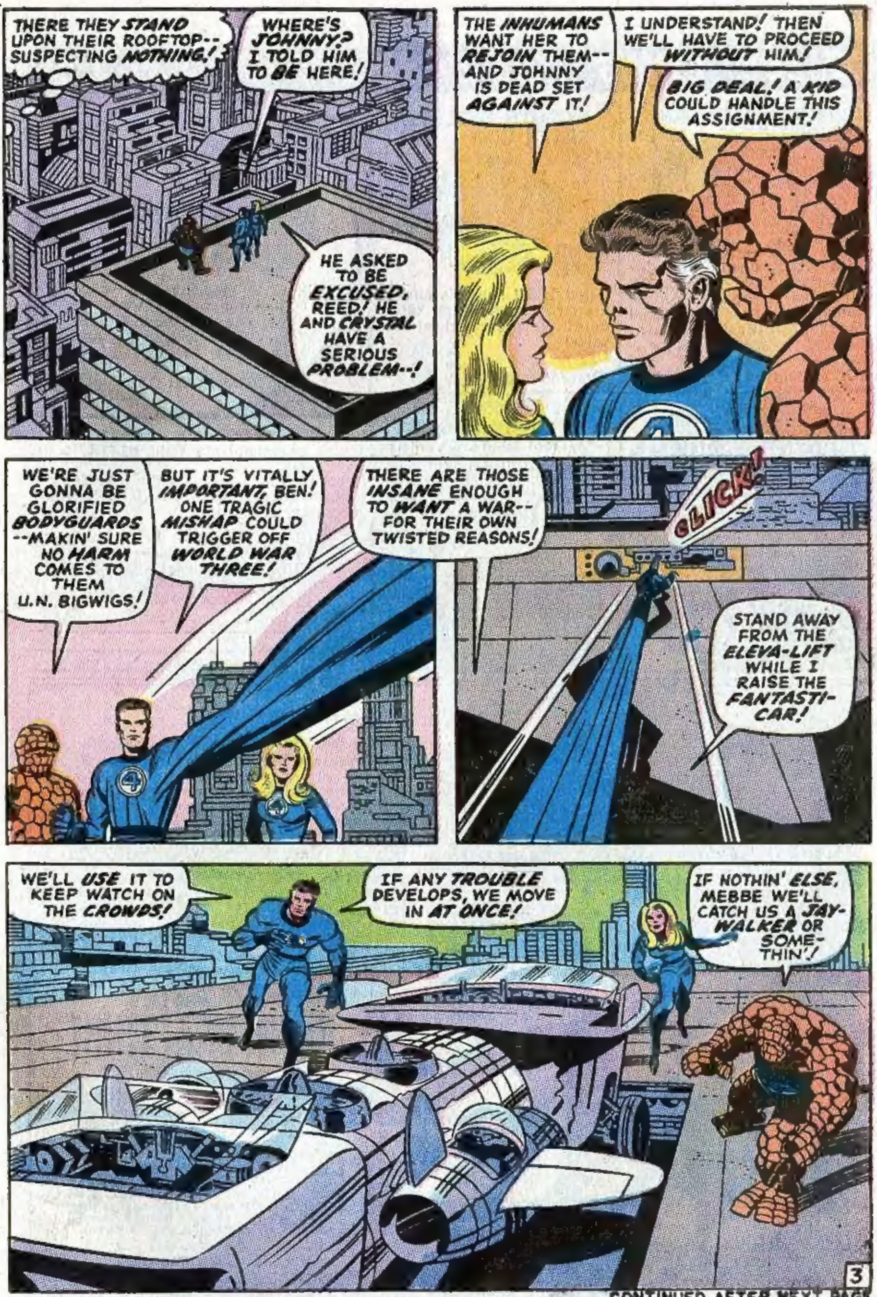
OH--SORRY, SIR--I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU! YOU'RE WITH THE FOREIGN PRESS CORPS!
YOU SHOWED ME YOUR CREDENTIALS EARLIER TODAY!
YES--QUITE SO!
WELL, WE CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL! SOME OF THE WORLD'S TOP STATESMEN WILL BE ARRIVING HERE SOON!
NATURALLY, YOU FOOL! IT IS THEY WHO ARE MY TARGETS!
WITHIN MY INNOCENT-LOOKING CAMERA IS THE MOST POTENT NEUTRAK RAY EVER CREATED!
THOSE I SERVE HAVE SPARED NO EXPENSE TO MAKE IT FOOL-PROOF!
AND WHAT BETTER WAY FOR THE MONOCLE TO TEST IT--THAN ON THE FANTASTIC FOUR THEMSELVES?
2



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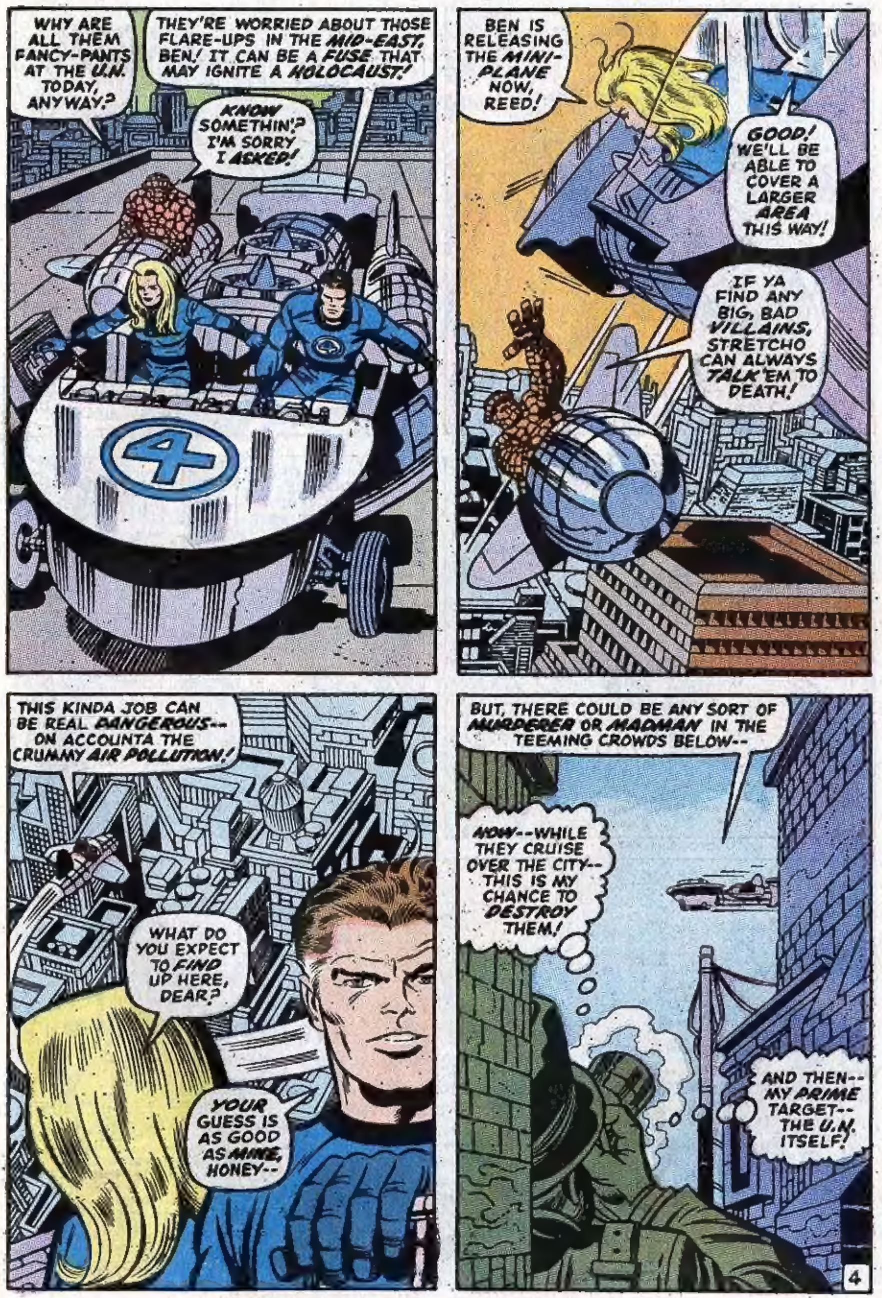
WHY ARE ALL THEM FANCY-PANTS AT THE U.N. TODAY, ANYWAY?
THEY'RE WORRIED ABOUT THOSE FLARE-UPS IN THE MID-EAST, BEN! IT CAN BE A FUSE THAT MAY IGNITE A HOLOCAUST!
KNOW SOMETHIN'? I'M SORRY I ASKED!
BEN IS RELEASING THE MINI-PLANE NOW, REED!
GOOD! WE'LL BE ABLE TO COVER A LARGER AREA THIS WAY!
IF YA FIND ANY BIG, BAD VILLAINS, STRETCHO CAN ALWAYS TALK 'EM TO DEATH!
THIS KINDA JOB CAN BE REAL DANGEROUS-- ON ACCOUNTA THE CRUMMY AIR POLLUTION!
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TO FIND UP HERE, DEAR?
YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE, HONEY--
BUT, THERE COULD BE ANY SORT OF MURDERER OR MADMAN IN THE TEEMING CROWDS BELOW--
NOW--WHILE THEY CRUISE OVER THE CITY-- THIS IS MY CHANCE TO DESTROY THEM!
AND THEN-- MY PRIME TARGET-- THE U.N. ITSELF!
4

ALTHOUGH TOTALLY INVISIBLE, MY RAY CAN SMASH THE NEUTRONS IN ANY METAL!
THE ENGINE-- PARTS OF IT DISSOLVED! WE--WE'RE FALLING!
WE MUSTN'T CRASH INTO THOSE CROWDS BELOW!
HANG ON, DARLING! I'VE GOT TO LEVEL HER OFF!
I'VE SWITCHED TO AUXILLIARY POWER!
OUR ONLY CHANCE--IS TO REACH THE RIVER IN TIME!
JUST A FEW HUNDRED YARDS MORE--
WE'LL MAKE IT! WE'VE GOT TO MAKE IT!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

MIXED-UP MEMENTOS MODESTLY GARNISHED WITH MACHIAVELLIAN MEMORABILIA!

ITEM! DR. STRANGE lives! You didn't think we'd let our swingin' sorcerer just vanish without a trace, didja? As a matter of fact, he joins forces with another of our ubiquitous superheroes this month in—shh, but why tell you? Think of the fun you'll have combing the Checklist and finding him for yourself!

ITEM! One of our artists lives, also! Remember BASHFUL BARRY SMITH? Well, he finally sent us a job we've been breathlessly awaiting, all the way from merrie England. It's drawn in an entirely different style from his spectacular superhero scribblings, and you'll find it in TOWER OF SHADOWS #3. If he didn't draw it at midnight, inside a haunted house, with a pen dipped in a witch's brew, we'll eat our first edition Lovecraft!

ITEM! Speaking of people who live—the millennium just occurred! During the '69 Comic Art Convention, held recently at New York's famous Statler-Hilton Hotel, who actually showed up? Why, none other than JOLTIN' JOEY SINNOTT, Marvel's own gifted ghost! He came to hear the speeches, see the goings-on, and rap about old times with Stan and the gang. But our Leader, loaded with script-writing chores, couldn't make the session, and so he'll probably have to wait another ten years before Joltin' Joe makes it back to the city from his upstate retreat. By the way, those of you who only think of Joe as a top inker should see his pencil work some time! If ever we find a way to add a few more hours to the day, we'll see if we can persuade him to draw a feature for you—we promise it'll be worth the wait!

ITEM! Remember SCORPIO, who left us hanging by our thumbs after his sensational appearance in SHIELD? Well, the mystery will finally be unravelled in the pages of the current AVENGERS. See? Though the mills of Marvel grind slowly, if you wait long enough—!

ITEM! Guess who just called? Wouldja believe WANDERING WALLY WOOD? (We used to call him Wondrous till he took off for parts unknown.) Anyway, after a long powwow there's a chance that you'll be seeing WW's wizardry between the covers of some Marvel mags once again—where it has always belonged! (Now if only a cat named S.D. would dig up our phone number again!—Oh well, we can always dream!)

ITEM! Ever wonder what Marvel was like in the "good old days?" Well, now you'll know—if you pick up a new hard-cover volume called All in Color for a Dime! It's published by Arlington Press, as the Christmas selection of the famous Nostalgia Book Club, and was edited by long-time comics-fans Don Thompson and Dick Lupoff. Besides a hefty, humor-packed article by Don on Captain America and the crew as they were in the days of World War II, it also contains about a dozen other fact-filled features on the comics scene of yesteryear—including one by a guy named Roy Thomas, written 'way back in 1962 when the Rascally One was a hard-working English teacher. (Any guesses now as to what Roy's gonna hand out as Christmas presents to about a zillion family members and friends? Oh well . . . it beats those autographed copies of THE AVENGERS that he passed out last year!)

ITEM! HAPPY HERBY TRIMPE is becoming a "cause celebre" around the Bullpen. There are a handful of anti-Trimpites who keep bombarding Stan's desk with letters demanding that we get a new artist to draw ol' Greenskin—claiming that even Irving Forbush could do a better job. If they were writing to the FANTASTIC FOUR, we'd swear they're Yancy Streeters. But the odd thing is this—WE think Herb's one of the greatest additions to our stupefyin' staff since Raquel Welch (No, Norman—she isn't working here. Calm down!)—and the HULK'S sales have been climbing ever since H.T. got his clutching little claws around his paint brush. We had a point that we were trying to make, but ever since mentioning Raquel, it seems to have slipped our minds. Oh well, we've run out of room now, anyway!

STAN'S SOAPBOX

For months I've been wanting to yak with you about this subject, but it always gets shoved aside by something more urgent. Well, this time I'm gonna say it, no matter what! This time I'm out to give the great guys and gals who produce these mags a small portion of the glowing tribute they so richly deserve. Having spent almost all my life in comics, I can testify to never having known a more ethical or honorable creative group. I've seen artists sacrifice long hours to help other artists perfect their work—writers giving their time unstintingly to polish another author's script. In this, a most highly competitive field, you'll rarely hear one artist deride another's work, but instead, the more talented the man, the more likely he is to provide advice, support, and encouragement to those who need it most. So here's to the titanically talented crew I work with; and to the equally gifted gang who toil for our competitors. Your work is demanding, your hours are long, your profession a lonely one. But you provide pleasure and enchantment to untold millions—and, though you may never meet them personally, they know you—respect you—they've taken you into their lives—and into their hearts. For you, and I, and all of us help them weave their most wondrous dreams.

Excelsior!

S. L.

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

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Whew!

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UH OH!
SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT CAN HURT A GUY!
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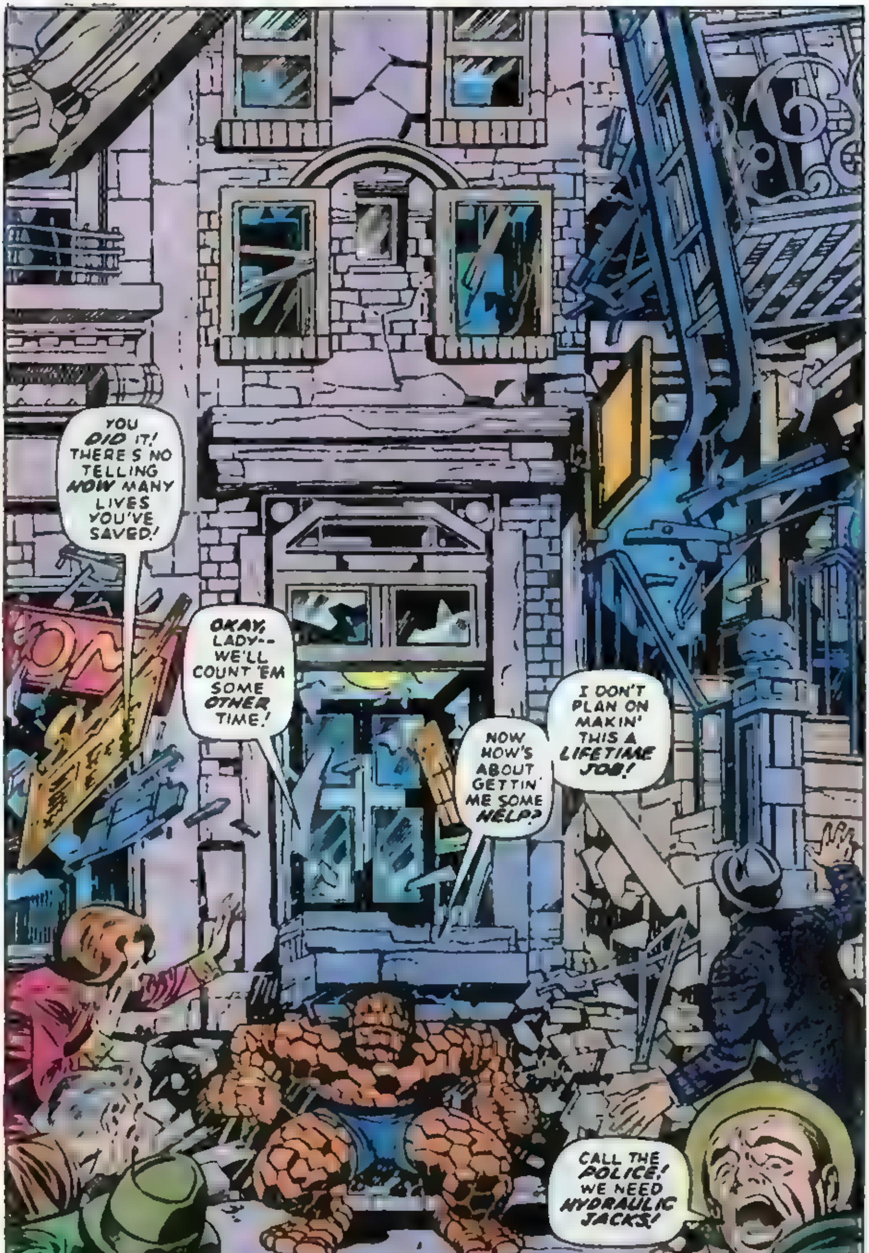
BUT THIS AIN'T THE TIME FER TWENTY QUESTIONS!
I--STOPPED IT--BUT--CAN'T STAY LIKE THIS--ALL DAY!
MY ONLY HOPE--IS TO STRAIGNTEN 'ER UP--BEFORE SHE CRUMBLES--ALL OVER ME!
EASY, BENJY--CAN'T LET 'ER FALL!
SHE'LL CRASH INTO THE BUILDIN'--ACROSS THE STREET--AND IT'S--LOADED WITH--PEOPLE!
7


YOU DID IT! THERE'S NO TELLING HOW MANY LIVES YOU'VE SAVED!
OKAY, LADY-- WE'LL COUNT 'EM SOME OTHER TIME!
NOW HOW'S ABOUT GETTIN' ME SOME HELP?
I DON'T PLAN ON MAKIN' THIS A LIFETIME JOB!
CALL THE POLICE! WE NEED HYDRAULIC JACKS!
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AND I'LL NO LONGER BE THE MONOCLE! I'LL BE A KING!
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AT THAT VERY MOMENT--ATOP THE WORLD-FAMED BAXTER BUILDING--
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I WAS THINKING, SUE! THINKING OF THE JOLT I FELT WHEN THE FANTASTI-CAR LOST POWER!
SOMETHING STRUCK US--SOME INVISIBLE FORCE WHICH AFFECTED THE SHIP'S METALLIC STRUCTURE!
I'VE ORDERED THE WRECKAGE BROUGHT HERE FOR ANALYSIS! I'VE GOT TO FIND THE ANSWER--AND FAST!
10

MEANWHILE, A FEW ROOMS AWAY--
YOU CAN'T DO IT, CRYS! YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME--TO GO BACK TO THEM!
OH, JOHNNY-- JOHNNY! DO YOU THINK I WANT TO GO?
DON'T YOU KNOW HOW THE THOUGHT OF US PARTING JUST BREAKS MY HEART?
BUT THE INHUMANS ARE--MY FAMILY! AND, IF THEY NEED ME--!
IT'S YOUR FAULT, MEDUSA! IF YOU HADN'T COME FOR HER--IF YOU'D JUST STAYED AWAY!
I TOO HAVE MY DUTY, JOHNNY STORM!
I WAS ORDERED TO COME HERE! IT IS BLACK BOLT'S WISH THAT MY SISTER REJOIN US!
THERE IS NO MORE THAT MAY BE SAID!
EVEN NOW THE DIMENSIONS ARE BRIDGED--THE BARRIER IS DOWN!
IT IS TIME! WE MUST TAKE THE GREAT JOURNEY!
NO! I WON'T LET YOU DO IT, CRYS! I WON'T LET THEM TAKE YOU FROM ME AGAIN!
RELEASE HER! YOU HAVE NOT THE RIGHT!
11

IF YOUR LOVE IS TRUE--IT WILL STAND THE TEST OF TIME!
IF NOT--IT IS FAR BETTER THIS WAY!
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FAREWELL, JOHNNY STORM! THERE IS NO OTHER WAY!
WAIT FOR ME, JOHNNY--I'LL COME BACK TO YOU--
CRYSTAL! CRYSTAL!
SHE'S GONE!
12

I JUST STOOD HERE--AND LET HER TAKE--THE GIRL I LOVE!
JOHNNY, WHAT IS IT? WHAT WAS THAT NOISE? WHAT HAPPENED, SON?
CRYSTAL! WHERE IS SHE? WE LEFT HER HERE! WHERE DID SHE GO?
TO ANOTHER WORLD--AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED!
13

IT WAS MEDUSA-- SHE SAID THE INHUMANS COMMANDED HER TO BRING CRYS BACK!
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, LAD--BUT WE'VE A BIGGER PROBLEM TO WORRY ABOUT RIGHT NOW--
--ONE THAT MAY AFFECT THE FATE OF THE ENTIRE WORLD!
IN YOUR HAT, MISTER! LET THE WORLD WORRY ABOUT ITSELF FOR A WHILE! IT'S TIME I STARTED LOOKING OUT FOR NUMBER ONE!
THAT'S ENOUGH, JOHNNY! THIS CITY IS LIKE A TINDERBOX RIGHT NOW--AND THERE'S A KILLER LOOSE--WITH A STRANGE, DEADLY WEAPON!
SO--DO WE TACKLE HIM--OR WOULD YOU RATHER CRY IN YOUR CHEERIE-OATS?
I'M SORRY, REED! I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT--AS USUAL!
MAYBE A LITTLE ACTION'S WHAT I NEED--TO MAKE ME FORGET!
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT, SON!
THE MAN WE WANT IS OUT THERE SOME-WHERE--CARRYING HIS WEAPON! BUT, HE'D HAVE TO DISGUISE IT SOMEHOW--
PERHAPS AS A SUITCASE--OR A CAMERA!
I CAN'T STOP EVERYONE WHO'S CARRYING A CASE--OR A CAMERA!
BUT MAYBE--IF I KEEP FLYING AROUND--I'LL THINK OF SOME-THING!
14

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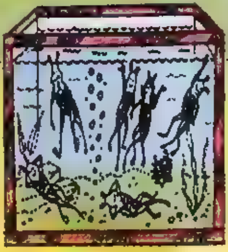

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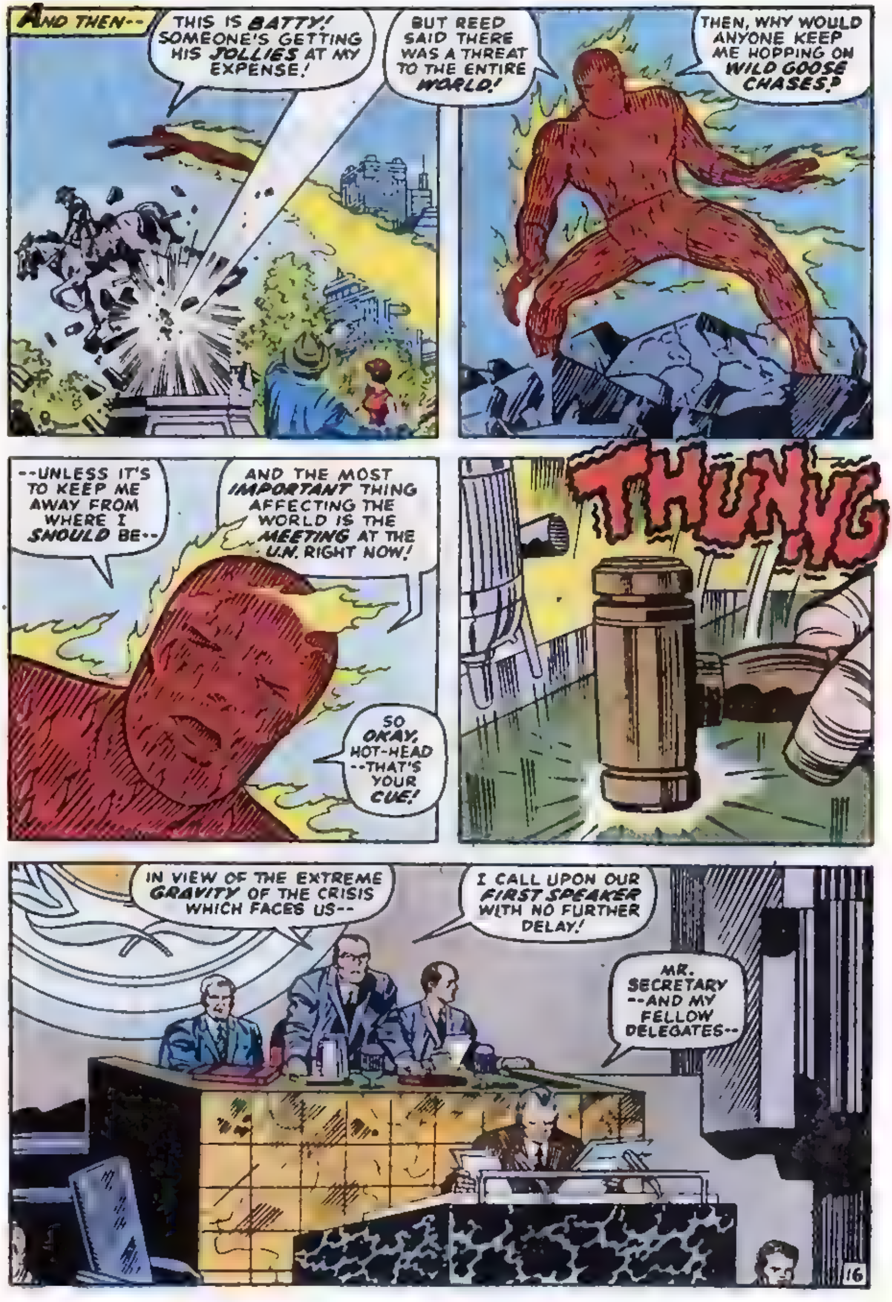
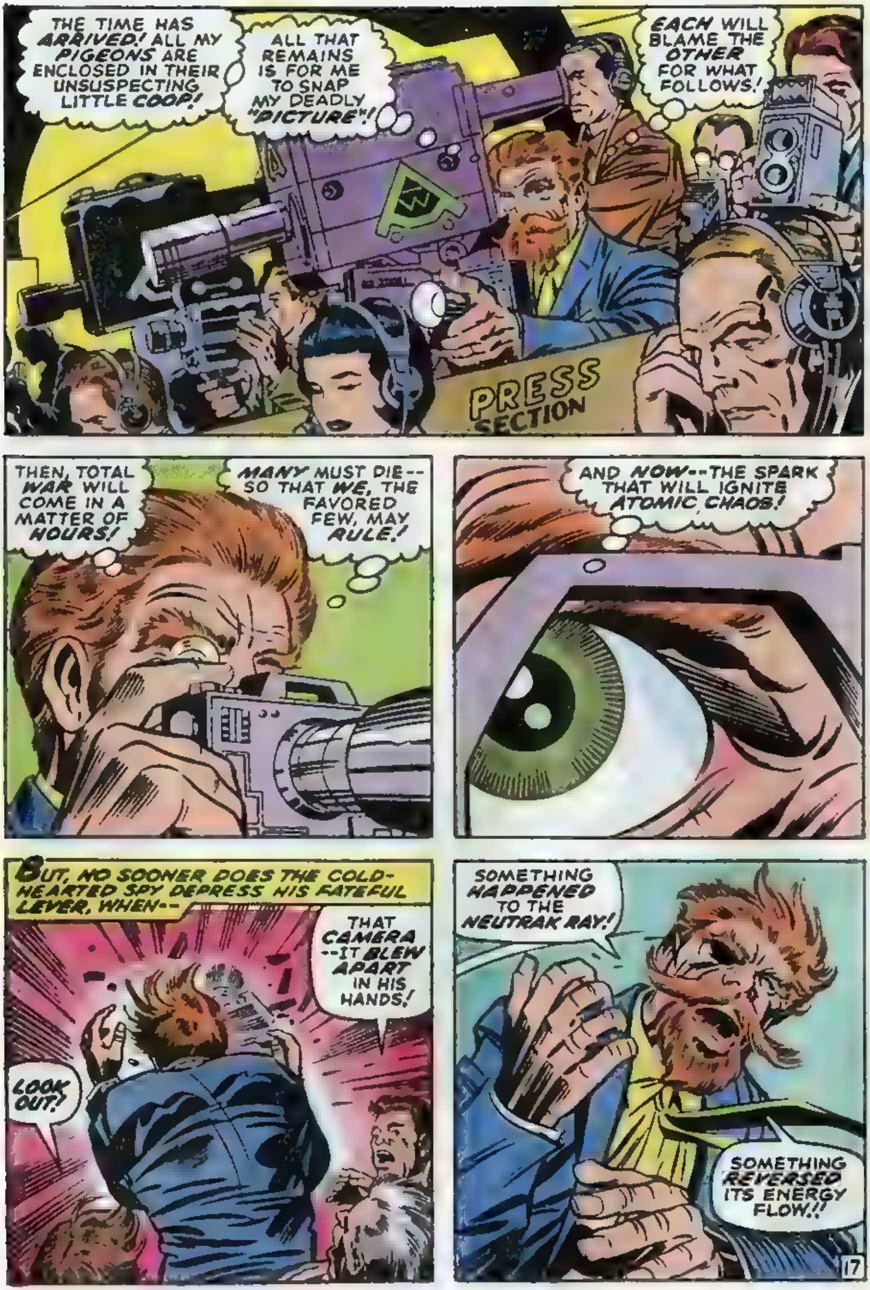

AND THEN--
THIS IS BATTY! SOMEONE'S GETTING HIS JOLLIES AT MY EXPENSE!
BUT REED SAID THERE WAS A THREAT TO THE ENTIRE WORLD!
THEN, WHY WOULD ANYONE KEEP ME HOPPING ON WILD GOOSE CHASES?
--UNLESS IT'S TO KEEP ME AWAY FROM WHERE I SHOULD BE--
AND THE MOST IMPORTANT THING AFFECTING THE WORLD IS THE MEETING AT THE U.N. RIGHT NOW!
SO OKAY, HOT-HEAD --THAT'S YOUR CUE!
THUNG
IN VIEW OF THE EXTREME GRAVITY OF THE CRISIS WHICH FACES US--
I CALL UPON OUR FIRST SPEAKER WITH NO FURTHER DELAY!
MR. SECRETARY --AND MY FELLOW DELEGATES--
16


THE TIME HAS ARRIVED! ALL MY PIGEONS ARE ENCLOSED IN THEIR UNSUSPECTING LITTLE COOP!
ALL THAT REMAINS IS FOR ME TO SNAP MY DEADLY "PICTURE"!
EACH WILL BLAME THE OTHER FOR WHAT FOLLOWS!
PRESS SECTION
THEN, TOTAL WAR WILL COME IN A MATTER OF HOURS!
MANY MUST DIE-- SO THAT WE, THE FAVORED FEW, MAY RULE!
AND NOW--THE SPARK THAT WILL IGNITE ATOMIC CHAOS!
BUT, NO SOONER DOES THE COLD-HEARTED SPY DEPRESS HIS FATEFUL LEVER, WHEN--
THAT CAMERA --IT BLEW APART IN HIS HANDS!
LOOK OUT!
SOMETHING HAPPENED TO THE NEUTRAK RAY!
SOMETHING REVERSED ITS ENERGY FLOW!!
17

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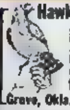

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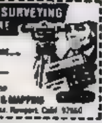

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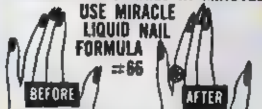

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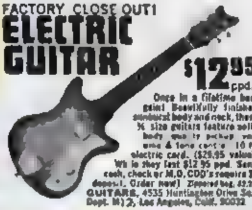

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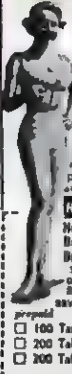

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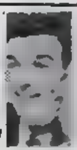

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19

HOLD IT, WHISKERS! YOU FORGOT ABOUT ME!
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YOU WON'T GET FAR WITH MELTED JETS!
NO! NOOO!
COOL IT, CREEP! THE EVER-LOVIN' THING'LL CATCH YA!
OR MEBBE YA'D RATHER I WUZ STILL HOLDIN' UP THAT CRUMMY BUILDIN'?
HUH? ALL OF A SUDDEN YA AINT GOT NOTHIN' TO SAY!
20
BEN CAUGHT HIM! HE'S --TURNING HIM OVER TO THE POLICE!
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Fantastic Four Fan Page

Send letters to LEE and KIRBY
THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP
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NEW YORK 10022 N. Y.

Dear Mr. Lee,

I wish to tell you how much I appreciated issue #91 of the FANTASTIC FOUR. I (like so many others) am a great fan of old gangster movies, and it was very refreshing to see characters of today and tomorrow mingled with vivid memories of the past. Your scripting was really 1930, while the artwork of Jack Kirby was (as always) too much for words. I liked the hood at the bottom of page 2 because he looked and talked like the late Humphrey Bogart. And, of course, the Slave-Keeper WAS . . . Edward G. Robinson. Good work!

But, I think that the most remarkable thing about #91 occurred in the first panel on the third page, where "Bogie" is holding up the card of Torgo. Torgo, from the planet Maarin. Remember? Good. NOW GET THIS!! The last picture that Humphrey Bogart made was "The Harder They Fall." In it was a fighter named Toro Moreno. Torgo from Maarin . . . Toro Moreno. What do you think of that? If it's a coincidence, then I say that it's a pretty good one. If it isn't a coincidence, and you thought it up yourself, knowing of the close relationship between the two names, congratulations! Nevertheless, I think your readers should know about this, don't you?

Well, that about wraps it up for now. This is Marvelmania International member 6987-A definitely NOT signing off for a long, long, long time!

Oh, by the way . . . What in the world is that little trademark under the 15¢ sign on all of your mags? If ya ask me, it looks like the top of a Norelco electric shaver!

Jeffrey Morgan, Apt. 509, 77 St. Claire Ave. E.
Toronto 7, Ontario, Canada

Well, Jeff, Smiley says he has no memory of ever seeing that picture . . . but there's a good chance that Mrs. Lee might have had it on the late show one night, and the name percolated through The Man's sleeping brain! Just goes to show ya—Stan isn't content to wake up to Marvels, eat with Marvels, and work all day with Marvels—he's even got to DREAM about them!!

As for that funny little mark—that's our new distributor's trademark—Curtis Circulation Company, C.C.C. Curtis is the company that is responsible for getting our mags from World Color Press in Illinois, where they're printed, to wholesalers all over the world!

Dear Stan and Jack,

I wish to reply to Steve Newton's letter in F.F. #90, Sept. In his mildly critical (well, let's face it—mildly critical he ain't!) letter, he chastised Mr. Lee for "slipping", and "leaving his prime as a writer." With my usual enthusiasm, I hereby leap to your defense, Stan!

Mr. Newton cites an example of your failing in issue #85, where the Fantastic Four seem to pull an answer out of a hat, so to speak, with which to defeat Dr. Doom's robotic army—a sorely unoriginal nemesis for the F.F. anyway. Mr. Fantastic found a control device—which he called Doom's "fail-safe" machine—and used it to trigger an air-jet under the pavement(?) which hurled the robots into the lake. Granted, this was a pretty hokey excuse for a climax in a story that spanned four issues. However, let's put the blame where it belongs!

YOU, Jack Kirby, are at fault in this miserable mix-up! YOU, my full-time hero-image and idol, are the culprit! I've watched you ever since JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY, TALES TO ASTONISH, TALES OF SUSPENSE, and AMAZING FANTASY, and bought literally everything with your name on it, and some that didn't! And, from these many years as a Kirbywatcher, I've come to realize that KIRBY WRITES THE STORIES!! Not literally, of course; Stan is the ever-lovin' writer, but Jack draws the story first, therefore plotting the whole thing. Stan really doesn't have much choice in what to write, because it's all there in living color when he begins. And so, let's lay the blame on Jack for these shoddy endings, and hope he gets on the ball! How about some plotting like ish. #'s48-50 and 51 and so on?

Of course, friend Newton, Stan's not perfect. As often as not, his dialogue smells of yichy mush. But I'm tremendously relieved to see his letters page with answers . . . and answers that really answer, to boot—not those inane wisecracks he once used.

In conclusion (whew!), let me say that Marvel is not slipping in any respect, it's just that Jack Kirby needs to spend more time plotting his stories. Don't give him another strip, unless it's THE AVENGERS. Also, his fans around here, and I guess everywhere else, would like to see him ink something of his own for once—like you promised three years ago!!

That's that. Hope it sets y'all straight, from Fisherville, Virginia to Madison Ave.

Charlie Williams, 1514 Cedar Lane
Knoxville, Tennessee 37918

Dear Stan and Jack,

I am perfectly willing to accept such little grotesqueries as a planet almost exactly like the United States of the Roaring Twenties, or that bashful Benjy is one of the most powerful creatures in the Universe, improbable though each may be. However, I cannot passively witness and accept such a weak assult on our imaginations as I see in your flimsy explanation of this strange parallel-world.

It is more reasonable to assume that evolution and design followed roughly the same course they had on earth up to the 1920's, and the cultural (and, to a lesser extent the scientific) influence of the Skrulls provided the people of Kral with such entertainments as "The Games" and the bits of super-science demonstrated on the pages of FANTASTIC FOUR #91. It is more in keeping with your style to ask us to believe in a fantastic coincidence than to try to persuade us that the Earth is the center of the Universe. I feel that our imaginations might lead us to accept even such unusual circumstances more readily than such a cop-out pseudo-explanation.

It may not help your sales to children, but I enjoy an occasional tale without a true ending, an occasional mystery with no solution, an occasional situation with no explanation. Allow us—no, FORCE us to use our imaginations. Perhaps, as we probe our minds, we'll discover a great thought or a brilliant idea. Perhaps, while searching out a solution for the refueling of Skrull galactic patrol ships, we'll stumble upon a solution for interracial hatred or war. We will never know until we use our minds.

'Nuff Said? (To coin a cliche.)

PMM Mike Burton, 1149 Greenwood St.
Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311

Thanks for your comment, Mike! This is one of those times when we'll pass for the present, and wait to see how all those other F.F.-Fans out there reacted to the story, and will react to your letter.

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Dear Marvel Masterminds,

Is there something about ugly people that bugs you? It seems that all superheroes are handsome and all superheroines are beautiful. Why?

Why can't Reed Richards be bald? Seeing what Ben Grim is, why does he have such a cute little nose? Why can't Hank Pym have huge goggle eyes, or Peter Parker have a protruding nose? Captain America has fought countless battles—but he doesn't even have a chipped tooth! Why is the Rawhide Kid so clean-cut? (If you can arrange time for it, please publish him monthly!) It's not that I MIND, but why ARE they so good-looking?

But honestly, I wouldn't write to you just to waste your time complaining. I can imagine how much it bugs you when someone writes to you about a coloring or spelling error, when it probably wasn't even your fault. I just wanted to tell you how much I appreciate the time, hard word, and imagination that go into your comics. The way everything fits together every month, with all that action, reality, and human feeling—ESPECIALLY in the Fantastic Four—is simply amazing. I've never been disappointed in one of your mags, and I'm sure I never will be. Thanks very much.

Anne Greco, 41 Spenvalley Dr.
Downsview, Ontario, Canada

Thanks for the kind words, Anne! With praise like that, whose gonna worry about a few everyday complaints . . . 'cept maybe Stan, and Jack, and Sol, and Roy, and . . . .

But, to try and answer your question . . . we don't have anything against being ugly. Why, one quick look around the Bullpen would PROVE that some of our best friends are ugly! Seriously, though, the first thing you have to do is make a distinction between super-heroes who are handsome in the ordinary sense of the term (sorta the Rock Hudson type), heroes who are handsome, but in a more rugged way (a Robert Lansing type), and maybe characters that are really grotesque, but for whom the reader can feel sympathy—like the Hulk or the Thing.

Now as far as the first type of handsome super-person, this is generally the sort of character that artists have drawn most, and he's the easiest kind of drawn character to show in a large number of different poses or situations. Still, we generally try to make our super-heroes a bit more individual in face and form, if we can, within the schedule of 21 books a month! Neal Adams X-men, Colan's Doc. Strange, Gil Kane's Mar-vel, and most all of Jack Kirby's characters, all generally tend to be more rugged than ordinarily handsome. On the other hand, though, you can still ask why we don't have super-types who are bald, or have pimples, or some-such. The answer here is a bit harder—y'see, to some extent, all our super-heroes are projections of an ideal, and folks just don't tend to imagine ideals with protruding noses or goggle eyes! So, to keep our super-people consistent we try to have them individualized . . . but generally handsome. Glad we had a chance to explain that!

Dear Stan, Jack, and crew,

Let me put it frankly! "The Thing Enslaved" was just the change that the "World's Greatest Comic Magazine!" needed. The script was the best in a long time and the art was powerfully stroked out like a famous Rembrady—Remlebant—Rembtrat—Raphaeli!

By the way, what welder does Torgo happen to go to? His price-list card shows 8 rivets on each side and on page 19 he has 10 or one side and 9 on the other. Well, at least he had a good paint job!

But, aside from that, Kirby, you were super, and Lee, well—I—er—well words just can't explain it! I hope detective Forbush can untwist it!

Ron Haeske, 4107 Gallagher
Saginaw, Michigan 48601

Glad you liked it, Ron. We're just breaking in a new artist named Leonardo Da Kirby, and it's good to see the warm and friendly reception this struggling unknown artist is getting from all you big-hearted fans out there!

As for Torgo, there are two simple explanations for the inconsistency you noted: (1), the spy-camera we had planted on Kral did not give us the highest quality picture at our California receiving station, due to inter-galactic static! Or, (2), we goofed! Take your pick, fella!

Dear Stan and Jack,

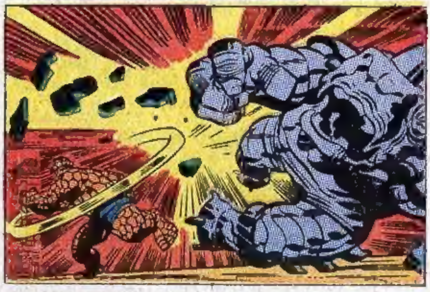
I've been thinking a lot lately on something I could ask ya that could stump you. Well, I think I've got it. We all know ol' Green-Skin can sorta fly by usin' his powerful clod-hoppers to push him through the air. But, if he can do this, how come the Thing can't do it also? After all, his legs and feet aren't exactly made for walkin' through daisys!

Well, even if ya can figure it out, I'm still gonna face front forever . . . well, at least until the end of the century!!

John Sorenson, 124 W. 17th St.
Grand Island, Neb. 68801

The reason is this, John S. While Bashful Benjy is anything BUT a 97-pound weakling, he's just not THAT strong . . . He can, as we just saw this ish, support a building. But his weight is so great . . . he's just so massive . . . that he can't leap as far as Hulk can.

Well, does this mean we can keep you facing front till 1999?



Dear Lee and Kirby,

EUREKA!! I've found it! I have just discovered the way to turn the Thing back into human Ben Grimm. It's so supremely simple, I can't see how Reed could have overlooked it!

In a few years, the Thing will slowly turn back into Ben all by himself! The cosmic radiation that changed him is slowly wearing off!

Remember back in '61 when the F.F. first came into being? The Thing was just a huge mass of orange rocks. Through the years up to now he has slowly . . . but surely . . . changed until he now looks almost human (except for the fact that his skin is still a rocky orange). I believe that in a few more years, the Thing will be no more, and Ben Grimm will live again!

I believe I deserve a no-prize for my discovery. Don't you?

David Hochman, 5423 Ft. Hamilton Parkway
Brooklyn, New York 11219

Well, by now, Dave, you have already had the pleasure of a detailed examination of your numinous no-prize! But, there're two problems with your intriguing solution to the Ben/Thing problem—if it's true, then the F.F. will really be facing some problems without the awesome power of the Thing on their side. The other possibility is that the cosmic radiation Ben received in traveling to Kral may have post-poned the wearing off process for quite a while. Which way would you rather have it, Dave?

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When you complete the test and mail it back, it will be graded free by a member of the School's staff. If you receive a passing grade (and we must warn you that many don't), or can offer sufficient evidence of art talent, you will then be eligible to enroll. You may choose whichever of our courses is best suited to your goals.

Courses offer personal instruction

These courses were especially designed for talented people who can't leave their families or jobs for art training away from home. The 12 famous artists who started the School over 19 years ago contributed all their lifetime secrets of art technique to what they believe to be the finest art lessons ever created. They took time out from their own busy careers and made thousands of special drawings to demonstrate each point. Then they devised a method of constructive criticism that is as personal as tutoring. Your instructor, who is himself required to be a practicing professional artist, spends up to several hours on just one of your assignments. He actually draws or paints his suggestions for improvement, and then "talks" to you by letter, dictating a long, friendly message of specific advice and encouragement.

You will receive an interesting brochure about our School and its revolutionary methods along with your free Art Talent Test. If you have ever dreamed of success in art, and wondered if it were possible, why not mail the coupon at left for both the Talent Test and the brochure right now?

Famous Artists School
Studio A-6280
Westport, Conn. 06880

I would like to find out whether I have art talent worth developing. Please send me, without obligation, your Famous Artists Talent Test and information about your courses.

Mr. / *Mrs.* / *Miss* ________ ← *Please circle one and print name*

Address ________

City ________

State ________ *Zip* ________ *Age* ________

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